POEMS AND BIOGRAPHY OF MARY ELEANOR ANDERSON

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Poems and biography of Mary Eleanor Anderson by Mary Eleanor Anderson

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MARY ELEANOR ANDERSON

POEMS AND BIOGRAPHY OF MARY ELEANOR ANDERSON





MARY ELEANOR ANDERSON

Poems and Biography

OF

Mary Eleanor Anderson

No.

HER HUSBAND, GALUSHA ANDERSON

Professor Emeritus, University of Chicago

Author of "The Story of a Border City during the Civil War," "Hitherto Untold," "When Neighbors Were Neighbors," and "Science and Prayer"

"One soul in two bodies."

Gregory Nazianzen

BOSTON
THE COLONIAL PRESS
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Copyright, 1917
By Galusha Anderson

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TO HER CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN,

AND TO ALL WITH WHOM SHE WORKED IN PROMOTING

MISSIONS, BOTH HOME AND FOREIGN, THIS

VOLUME IS AFFECTIONATELY

DEDICATED.

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FOREWORD

To edit the poems and write the biography of one's wife, is a work both delicate and difficult. In one respect I was manifestly disqualified for it, since I was a prejudiced witness. For more than fifty-five years we had walked together in the bonds of holy wedlock. She was the happy mother of my children. I fairly worshipped the ground on which she stood, and her absence from the earth had increased, rather than abated, the ardor of my affection. But while I could not but be prejudiced in her favor, on the other hand no one, in all the world, understood her so well as I. Divesting myself so far as I could of undue bias, I proceeded to edit some of her poems and to write the story of her life. In telling that story I have often quoted from an autobiographical sketch, which I found among her papers, written, not for the public, but simply for the eye of her husband and children.

I found it no easy task to select from her numerous poetical compositions her best work, and in some cases I may have rejected what I should have chosen and edited what might better have been omitted; but I have done my best.

As to her biography, I have striven to write it

impartially and justly, neither consciously covering up defects nor unduly exalting virtues. If I have come short in any respect, I am sure it is in setting forth her real worth. In order to avoid awkward circumlocutions I have ordinarily designated her in the biography, by her given name, "Mary." I trust that this will not be offensive even to those of fastidious taste.

It gives me pleasure to acknowledge the courtesy of the editors of *The Atlantic Monthly* in permitting me to republish from its pages Mrs. Anderson's poem, "Poor Marie." I also heartily thank her old schoolmate, Mrs. Sophie Burns of Bath, New York, and also those with whom she was associated in Mission work, for their valuable suggestions.

Galusha Anderson.

Newton Centre, Massachuseits, October 16, 1917.